If thou woulds't read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills -- Longfellow.

Hocahontas

## VA1 05. NA 11

## Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, October 18 1906

and the instrument of

Visit to Old Fort Sybert. Scene of the Blocdiest Indian Massacre In the State 148 Years ago.

years old.

On the south fork of the South Branch of the Potomac in Pendel. ton county, W. Va., stood Fort Sybert, the scene of the bloodiest Indian massacre that ever occurred on the soil of West Virginia. One hundred an forty-eight years have passed since then, and not withstanding the fact that the savages burned the fort, and made the destruction as complete as possibl it is surprising that so much remains to this time to throw ligh on the happenings of that fatal day when Killbuck through the

basest treachery obtained possession of the block house and murdered men, women and children who had taken shelter there.

It was one of the most melancholy events in our history, and important in many ways; yet no historian who has ever written of it took the pains to make a personal investigation. Kercheval wrote a brief story in his day, but he was evidently never on the scene; and other writers have copied him. One writer, whose history is used in some of the counties of West Virginia, gives a picture of old fort Sybert. The picture is pure fiction and gives no idea of the shape and size of the fort, or the ground on which it s'ood.

Having a desire to see the place of the massa re, and collect all the historical data possible at this late day, I left Crab Bottom, in Highland county, Va., in the afternoon of August 27. South Branch there, only a creek of tclerable brook for water. size, breaks through massive tilt-

all but one boy, who was 17 building was 21 feet square. That was a small building to Pittsburg.

rest, but when he saw his mother persons. It was probably two taken by the Indians after they the ravine, where boulders as and sister tomahawked he made a stories high. I concluded that burned the fort. It furnished an large as houses lay piled in con- them to divers uses, and to proruu for his life, pursued by the such was the case from the fact excellent opportunity to sive y the fusion. The scene had been duce the most powerful and most savages. The course of his flight that young Sybert from his station Indian's mode of woodcraft. It changed but little since the night delicate efforts.

mile before he was overtaken and able to shoot the Imdian spy who finding the nearest way. I spent the massacre, and where the captured. Because of his swift- was lying behind a rock 20 steps nearly a whole day in the work of wounded warrior groaned his life ness of foot the savages spared his from the palisades. The building following the route, and examin- away. life. To him we are indebted for must have been two stories to have ing their camping ground, which many of the details of the massa- evabled the young man to shoot is well known. The distance to

re and the subsequent journey to over the top of the paliesdes and Greenwalt pass is seven miles. the Indian country. He after kill the savage where he cronched. The Indians reached the place the wards returned from capitvity. Back to the fort the hill slopes evening of the day of the massa-His descendants are namerous, gradually for several hundred ore. I judge that the fort was and a grandson still lives near the yards. About 400 yards above taken early in the morning, and the site of the fort, in what is that the savages were on their

I visited the site of the fort. now a pasture field is the grave of march by noon or soun after. The The land belongs to W. C. Miller, the victims of the massacre. Two seven miles to Greenwalt pass a man who has carefully preserved oaks spread their branches over was as much. I think, as they all the landmarks, and who has the spot where men, women and could cover in a half day carrying collected from every available children rest who fell that day a wounded man, who had been source all that has been handed beneath the blows of the toma- shot in the head, and who, is al down concerning the fort and its hawks of the savages. In the dis- iready stated, died in that night. destruction, His residence covers tance the river flows through its | I followed ridge and ravine in part of the site of the fort, and wide and beautiful valley. a course almost a direct line. Octhe remainder is enclosed in his Recorded history is silent as to casionally I was in public roads, yard. He has destroyed nothing the exact spot where the people sometimes crossing farms, now that has any historical interest. were murdered. The reading of and then in paths, and at other If there were more such care the accepted accounts conveys the times in the woods. The old takers of the state's history our immpression that the massacre chief Killbuck was a master in past would by better preserved. took place at the fortimmediately the art of cutting down distances. The fort stood on a bluff abcu after the Indians were admitted, The course he took is two miles 2 feet higher than the bottom land and before the torch was applied, shorter, in 11 miles, than all the of the river. On one side flows I do not think that such was the road surveyors since have been a brook or rather there is a chan- case. From all the circumstances, able to lay out a public road. But nel where a brook now flows in I beheve that the Indiahs, plund- it must be confessed that he had wet weather. In all probability ered the fort, then set it on fire, no skill in shunning hills. Some Of course we miss the flower, and the time when health was enjoyed the brain, recognized by all sur- more than two hundred and fifty

water flowed there all the time be- and afterward marched them up of those which I crossed in folfore the land was cleared of its the hill to the spot where the lowing his line of march, as tratimber. The brock was within grave is now seen, and there dition has preserved it, were steep 15 steps of the wall of the fort, murdered them. The unfortunate and formidable.

and without doubt those who oc- people supposed, no doubt, that Between 4 and 5 o'clock in the cupied the fort depended on the they were to be carried into capti- afternoon I reached the pass. It was a source of agreeable surthe line of march. the Indians camped that night prise to me that I was able to as. dependent somewhat upon circum- a fine spring, lives Jacob Greencertain the size, shape, and plar stanial evidence for the conclusion walt, an old man. He has a lit. of the fort almost exactly. I did that when they had gone about the orchard of old apple trees, a not expect to find one vestige re- 400 yards the Indians halted and patch of corn, a log cabin, and msining; but this is far from the tomahawking began. It was then three dogs which fly into paroxcase. We know so little of the that the boy, who became the sole ysms of rage at the approach of a sizes of the frontier forts in West white witness of the occurrence, stranger. He lives alone. I Virginia that it is a veritable prize made his run for life and almost went to see him, and found him to be able to put the line on one succeeded in escaping. in his orchard, crawling on his When the bloody work was over hands and knees, picking up apand measure it. The lapse of time has a tendency to increase the savages continued their march ples. He is so crippled with their size in popular imagination. up the hill. The captive boy after- rheumatism that he can barely The only picture of Fort Seybert wards told the particulars of the walk. Aithough his father and I over saw represents it as a hol- retreat. his grandfather lived and died The grave is yet plainly visible where he lives, yet he never low quadrilateral enclosed by four walls-one on each side-compo- The messager sent to the Shenan- learned to speak English except sed of log cabins. The enclosed doah valley by Captain Sybert at quite brokenly. He is German. area is resumably about 2 acres. the first alarm brought back with He swears terribly and punctu-The doors of the cabine all opened him through Brock gap & force ates his most common conversainward, and thus a solid wall on which marched with all speed to tion with the most tremendous every side would be presented to the assistance of Fort Sybert. loaths. an attacking enemy. Such is the When the relief column arrived, I had been directed to him be- Then your apples all is getherd. imaginary picture of old Fort Sy- ashes alone marked the spot where cause he knew the exact spot of bert. Now for the real fort. the fort had stood. the Indian night camp in the pass, It was not square at all, but a Parsuing the trail of the Indians and he could pilot me to the grave circler instead of occupying tow up the hill the bodies of the vict- of the dead warrior under the acres, it covered less than one ims were found. A grave was dog cliff high on the mountain side. tenth of an acre. I figure that the probably on the very spot and all He was too lame and feeble to space enclosed within the paliwere buried in a common tomb. o, but he gave most minute directions how to find the places, and I had no trouble in doing so. The Indian camp was in the narrowest part of the gorge where a fine spring bursts forth. A small level plot below the spring wood and children, had gathered was 4,050 equare feet. It was the foot of the bill. The act was is no doubt the exact spot where purely wanton for an abundance the savages slept that night, and

IU MAATILL & JUUMALLO, Inmate . pluquered the tor, and the sourd armost, if not exact and thence along the Seneca trail weird place to spend a night. The set it on firs. They stood the in- ly in the center of the circle till they reached the site of E - wind down the pass was cold and mates in rows, and tomahawked formed by the palisades. The kins, and thence continued their raw, and the mountain walls and journey to Fort Duquesne now the dark pines and maples kept

the struggling moon beams at bay This boy was in line with the furnish living rooms for 40 or 50 I decided to follow the route that tried to force their way into

is still pointed out. He ran a in the top of the block house was shows their unerring judgment in the fierce savages slept there after

When The Frost is on the Punkin

By James Whitcomb Riley When the frost is on the punpk in and the todder's in the shock. and you hear the kyouck and

gobble of struttin' turkeycock. nd the clacklin of the guineys, and the cluckin' of the hens, and the rooster's hallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence;

O, it's then's the times a feller is a feelin' at his best, With the risin' sun to greet him

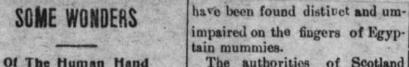
from a night of peaceful rest, is he leaves the house, bareheaded, and goes out to feed the stock,

ben the frost is the punkin and the fodder's in the shock. They's something kindo' hartylike about the atmusfere and the coolin' fall is here.

the blossums on the trees. And the mumble of the hummin' birds and buzzin' of the bees;

haze

the airly autumn day



impaired on the fingers of Egyp-

The authorities of Scotland Yard, the police headquarters of Aristotle termed the human London, in 1904 identified five instruthousand persons by the indexed pents, which enables man to make finger prints. The experts there all others, to manage and apply

the fingers are of four classes: thirty five points of comparison arches, loops, whorls, and the In making records the whole ten their associates in the deals far composite. These lines make a digit are taken. pattern which never changes from It is strange that so strong ber in this section of the country. infancy to old age, and which is

different in the case of every in prejudice agains the left hand has lived and increased for centuries, dividual. The chances against two persons' finger prints being when there is no natural or physalike are one in sixty-four billions liological reason for it. Examina This means that if the population tion of the skeleton of a person of the earth were forty times as who was strong, healthy, and years, for though they sell from great as it is to day, you might well formed in life shows that the the original purpose a boundary look in vain for two people whose finger marks were identical. The finger-nail of a person good health grows at the rate of ology shows, too, that the muscles about one sixteenth of an inch and ligaments that fastened that each week-slightly more than person's arms to his body, and steadily increase in value.

many authorities believe-but gave them the power of motion, during illness or after an accident were made to do their work just Indians whose headquarters are or during times of mer.tal depres- as well on one side of the body as at Cherokee, Swain county, sion this growth is not only affect on the other. If the left side was through their council, added to ed and retarded so far as its length the weaker it was because of the their already very large holdings is concerned, but also as regards failure to the exercise it as freely of land on the waters of the its thickness. The very lightest as the other. illness will thus leave an in-

may be readily detected as the the otherwise normal people use which, they paid \$68,000, or nail grows out. If one has a the right hand in preference about \$1.70 per acre. sudden vattack, such as acute to the left; six per cent are left From the upper or most remote rheumatism, which sends the tem-

or 105 within the space of two that one third of the six per cent just sold thirty-five thousand acres or three hours, it will be found on are ambidextrous; When the heat of summer's over the nails, indicating the difference The fact that there is what in thickness of growth between known as the "thumb center,' In within ten years of \$177,000 or

> and the thin growth of the ill pe- geons, demonstrates the immense per cent. importance attached to the thumb The palms of the hands and the by medical science. If there is a by the purchasers will require the

the landscape through the cushions of fat, in order that sud- physician notes it in the thumb of standard gauge railroad to den jolts and violent blows may long before the malady shows reach it and an aggregate of vity as they were ordered to take Just above the rocky gorge where Of a crisp and sunny morning of be successfully resisted and no in- itself in other directions. An op- about forty miles for its operation, jury done to the muscles and eration to avert the calamity, if over fifteen miles of which will possible, is frequently performed bones underneath.

A transaction has just been closed by which Ward and Hutton acquire a tract of 35,000 acres acres acquired some time ago in various deals, gives them and

15

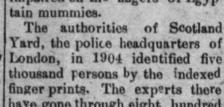
the largest acreage of spruce tim-By the same transaction the eastern band of Cherokee Indians realize at least three hundred per cent on an investment within ten bones of the left hand and arm are for an amount which is nearly justas large and capable as those four times the cost of the entire of the right. The study of physi- tract, but they retain a large number of acres which promises to

Less than ten years ago these Oconalufty river, some forty thoudelible mark on the nails, which About pinety four per cent of sand acres of timber lands for

perature bounding upward to 104 handed, and it is a curious fact portions of these lands, they have for two hundred and forty-five thousand dollars, making a profit

ie

The developement of this tract But the sir's so appetizin; and soles of the feet are composed of tendency towards paralysis, the construction of some twenty miles



Times.

have gone through eight hundred of the finest timber lands in the thousand finger prints and in no country, which added to their two have they found more than boundary of about forty thousand The markings on the backs of it gives an average of about three joints of identity. Each dig-

**BIG TIMBER DEAL** In North Carolina

\$1.00 A Year

ed strata which originally walled in the valley of Crab Bottom, and through a picturesque gorge the little river then plunges and roars over the ledges as it takes its way among the Mountains. Three miles below the gorge we passed into Pendelton county, and six miles farther we went into camp in a rain storm, having walked 17 miles that day. The next day we left the South Branch and crossed the mountains toward the south fork. The day was stormy, and after a walk of five miles we made our camp and remained until the next day. S'x miles farther we reached the South fork, a beautiful little river, flowing over a smooth bed of gravel, at the base of the Shenandoah mountains.

It was a fine day, and we walk ed 14 miles down the picturesque walley of the South fork, and camped that night on the river bank two miles above fort Sybert. At 8 o'clock the next morning we reached our destination.

In the third year of the French and Indian war an Indian chief sades was 4,050 square feet. The Some years latter a stone wall was named Killbuck, who lived near facts for exact calculation are too built around the grave. The foundthe site of Pittsburg, appeared fragmentary for absolute certain- ation of this wall remains; but the before Fort Sybert with a large ty, but by constructing the circle principal part of it was hauled band of followers. The settlers, on the greatest diameter that the away many years ago to fill mud to the numbers of about 50 men, remaining arc will give the size holes in the road that runs along in the fort for safety. The place probably a little sever for 1 do was not garrisoned by troops, but not think the palisades formed of other rock could have been there. I suppose, the wounded depended for defense on those quite a true circle. who took shelter, there. Captain The fine lawn in Mr Miller's Sybert was in command. The yard yet shows the trench where

away. presence of the Indians in the vithe logs were set on end in a ditch cinity was quickly discovered, and to form the wall. The entire circle a messenger was sent across the cannot be traced, only about 140 Shenandoah mountains for help, degrees of it. But from that it is

The Indians meanwhile reconeasy to find the center and connoitered the fort, and one of their struct the remainder of the circle epies crawled within 50 feet of the When this is done, it shows that stockade was mortally wounded the palisades of Fort Sybert stood by Captain Sybert's son, who was in the form of a circle about 90 reached Greenwalt pass, seven stationed in the top of the block feet in diameter. Within this circle stood the

house. The Indian was peeping over a rock when shot. This was block house in which the inhabithe only loss the Indians sustained tants crowded for shelter. They

Captain Sybert was seized with often lived there the greater part panic, and asked Killbuck for a of the summer. dians agreed to prosecute the siege prising today after a lapse of 148 no farther. The money was paid, years, enough of the block house and to the surprise of those in the remains to furnish a tolerably fort, Captain Sybert ordered the accurate working plan for itsregate to be opened to admit the construction. Two corner stones

had with no more trouble than warrior died. was incurred in hauling these The boy reported when he

came back from captivity, that The names of only a few of when the warrior died, they carthose who perished in the massacre ried his body up the mountain are known. It is believed that the side, hid it under a shelving rock most of them were Germans. at the base of a cliff, and wall-The boy who was carried to the ed it in. Jacob Greenwalt told Indian country subsequently re- me that he remembered when the turned. He said after the massacre skeleton was still there, but that the Indians setout for home. They the last bones disappearhd about

50 years ago." miles distant, and camped the first I climbed up the mountain side night at a spring. They carried to the place, and found the grave, with them the Indian who was and it must have taxed the savawounded while peeping over tock ges to carry the dead man. The stors.

near the fort. He died that night, grave is 500 or 600 feet above and the next morning they carried the gorge. The wall has nearly parley which was granted. In When it is born in mind that him up the face of a steep moun- all been torn away, but the founconsideration of the payment of a the Indians burned everything tain, hid him under a shelving dation is undisturbed. I made a stipulated sum of money the In- that could be burned, it is sur- rock at the base of a cliff and thorough search for tones, but ate in this district, spoke to a good finger, and slowest for the thumb. walled him in with stone. When the young man returned and sand from the cliff form sev- Tuesday night. He is not a pol-

he pointed out the grave. The body was deposited.

Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin to mock-

morn:

tossels of the corn.

palm. The stubble in the furries kindo'

riod.

lonesume like, but still A preachin sermons to us of the barns they growed to fill; the reaper in the shed: The hosses in theyr stalls below the clover overhead!the tickin' of a clock,

and the fodder in the shock! matter of the brain. and the ones a feller keeps

Is all poured around the celler floor in red and yeller heaps: your wimmern folks through

and theyr souce and saussage

tool don't know how to tell it but et sich a thing could be the Angels wantin boardin and they call around on me 'd want to commodate 'em all, the whole indurin flock---

New Road A charter has been granted for

the Hampshire Southern Railroad capital of \$30,000. A road is nect with the Western Maryland and Chesapeake and Ohio railroads. W. B. Cornwell, of Fair-

Candidate Williams Here

A. D. Williams, of Marlinton, Republican candidate for the Sen-Iside of this, slower for the little could find none. Decaying leaves sized audience at the court house

When the fost is on the punkin to the mind. If a person is try- brain and the thumb itself is the timber lands still held by the and the fodder's in the shock. ing to deceive you he will invari- watched for resits favorable or Indians. The husky, rusty russle of the ably draw his thumb in to ward the otherwise. It is a matter of recpalm. On the other hand, if he ord that the thumbs of idiots and And the raspin of the tangled is telling the truth the thumb will those mentally weak are under themselves and others under the

> The blind, as we all know, hand. have the sense of touch most sin-

2 Cent Rate. gularly sensitive. A writer in a The 2-cent rate on railroade, is medical contemporary now cites The strawstack in the medder, and the case of a post-mortem exami- one of the things that can't hart firmed at the regular annual counnation of a blind man which re- the railroads and yet it is a grand cil meeting of this band of Chervealed the fact that in the nerves thing for the traveling public. We okees through their chief and head at the end of the fingers well-de- have no desire to injure the rail- men and the government agent, O, it sets my heart a clickin' like fined cells of gray matter had roads, and our contention is that We Wit S. Harris. formed, identical in substance and railroad managers are standing it This, together with other pur-

When the frost is on the punkin in cell formation with the gray their own light by uct making chases recently made, throws the The radical difference between sion. Let us give an illustration in one solid body under one con-

the hand of man and of the of the way a reduction in fare trol anywhere in the United States. monkey lies in the thumb. In acts:

the human hand the thumb has The New York, New Haven & And your cider makin's over, and the "opposing power," which Hartford Railroad Company sevmeans that the thumb can be eral months ago reduced its pas- in Western North Carolina, and made to touch the tip of each or senger rate from 3 to 2 cents pe the legal transfer was made With their mince and apple butter any of the other fingers on the mile. The manager estimated, through Bryson and Black of Brysame hand; the monkey's thumb the loss would be about \$800,000 son City, attorneys for the Cherofor the balance of the year. He okees, and Stevens and Anderson is non-opposable. The white lines which cross the now reports that there has been of Asheville, attorneys for the finger-nails, particularly the an actual gain in gross receipts purchasers. thumb-nails, are signs of disturb- as compared with other years, ances in the organism at that time through an increased volume of they were formed. A German business. This is the point exscientist's observation is that actly. Reduce the rate and more the supply of drinking water are When the frost is on the punkin forty-six per cent of the criminals people will travel.

and the fodder in the shock! have these lines, forty-three per The like is true as to freight. cent of idiots, and fifty per cent The same railroads also reduced the tariff on coal to points in New of lunatics.

The growth of nails is more England, and stated that, basing rapid in children than in adults, results on former volume of traffic Company of Spring Gap, with a and slowest in the aged. It goes it would lose about \$150,000 on more rapidly in summer than year. Receipts to date indicates projected to begin at Spring Gap in winter, so that the same nail that not only has this loss been in the northern part of the state that is renewed in one hundred and overcome but that there will be an and to run through Grant and thirty two days in winter requires actual gain over other years,-Hardy counties to Durbin to con- only one hundred and sixteen in all through increased business. summer. The increase of the The 2-cent rate must come. We nails on the right hand is more will have to show the railroad how rapid than on the left; it also to do a bigger business, -- if they mont, and John J. Cornwell, of differs for the different fingers, cannot see it themselves .- Mcand in order corresponding with Dowell Recorder-

the length of the finger. It is Water Supplies of West Virginia more rapid for the middle finger, A publication of great interest nearly equal for the two either

United States Geological Survey The nails of the Chinese nobili ty sometimes attain a lenght of highteen inches, and the Siamese from captivity some years later, eral inches of trash where the ished speaker, but a very pleasant, belles wear long silver cases at tained upon application to the Di. are best adapted to manufacturing gentlemen. In company with Dr J. the ends of their fingers to pro- rector of the Survey at Washing- or boiler purposes,

skeleton of the Indian was still Having concluded to make fur O. Keseler, Republican candidate tect the nails, if they are long ton, D. C, are discussed the con WANTED-Fireman, must be

necessarily run through and de-The thumb is an unerring index on the "thumb center" of the velop more than fifteen miles of

This purchase is made in the name of Ward and Hutton for leaves, as golden as the relax and point away from the sized, characterless, and unusally active management of their assocling closely to the side of the ciates, John C. Arbogast, Lake Charles, La.; B. M. Yeager. Marlinton, West Virginia; and A. H. Winchester, Buckhannon, West Virginia, and was just con-

> the rate 2-cents without compul- largest amount of standing sprace south of the Adirondacks.

This is the largest single transaction in timber lands ever made

-Asbeville Citizen.

sylvania. The methods of sewerage disposal and the sources of described in detail, and there are discussions of the epidemics of typhoid fever that have occurred at various points. As such epidemics necessarily have their origin in pollution of the watersheds, it is evident that adequate sanitation of small towns and a careful guarding of their water supplies would prevent disease at its very source and be far less expensive than the costly battles that are waged against epidemics in the centers of population. The paper also contains sections devoted to the purification of river water by means of filter galleries and filter cribs.

The report is of great value to all communities in West Vir- from the industrial as well as from ginia has just been issued by the the sanitary point of view, as the assays of river, spring, and well as Water-Supply Paper No. 161. supplies from a great many points In this report, which may be ob- in the area indicate what waters

Romney, are two of the incorpor-

